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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/634,431	08/05/2003	Wolfgang Guba	21152	8300
151	7590	03/09/2005	EXAMINER	
HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE INC. PATENT LAW DEPARTMENT 340 KINGSLAND STREET NUTLEY, NJ 07110			STOCKTON, LAURA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/634,431

Applicant(s)

GUBA ET AL.

Examiner

Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 10, 11 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 9, 12 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/3/03 & 2/26/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) - (d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statements filed on November 3, 2003 and February 26, 2004 have been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by:

- A) CA Registry No. 339023-15-3 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- B) CA Registry No. 339023-11-9 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- C) CA Registry No. 339023-05-1 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- D) CA Registry No. 339023-03-9 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- E) CA Registry No. 339022-94-5 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- F) CA Registry No. 339022-92-3 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN);
- G) CA Registry No. 339022-32-1 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN); or

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H) CA Registry No. 339008-11-6 (May 30, 2001
- entry date in Registry file on STN).

Each of the above CA Registry Numbers describes
compounds embraced by the instant claimed
invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35
U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office
action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-7, 10, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35
U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaya et
al. {U.S. Pat. 4,649,146}.

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*Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP
§2141.01)*

Applicants claim thiazole compounds. Takaya et al. teach thiazole compounds that are structurally similar to the instant claimed compounds. See formula (I) in Takaya et al., for example, wherein R^1 is lower alkyl; R^2 is arylamino; R^3 is N-containing unsaturated heterocyclic group which may be substituted; Q is -CO-, n is 1 (column 1, lines 34-65; column 10, lines 15-20; column 11; columns 21-25; and especially Example 1 and Example 4 in columns 25 and 26, respectively).

*Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the
claims (MPEP §2141.02)*

The difference between the compounds of the prior art and the compounds instantly claimed is that the instant claimed compounds are generically described in the prior art.

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Finding of prima facie obviousness--rational and motivation (MPEP

§2142-2413)

The indiscriminate selection of "some" among "many" is *prima facie* obvious, In re Lemin, 141 USPQ 814 (1964). The motivation to make the claimed compounds derives from the expectation that structurally similar compounds would possess similar activity (e.g., cardiotonic activity).

One skilled in the art would thus be motivated to prepare products embraced by the prior art to arrive at the instant claimed products with the expectation of obtaining additional beneficial products which would be useful in treating heart disease. The instant claimed invention would have been suggested and therefore, obvious to one skilled in the art. A strong case of *prima facie* obviousness has been established.

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Allowable Subject Matter

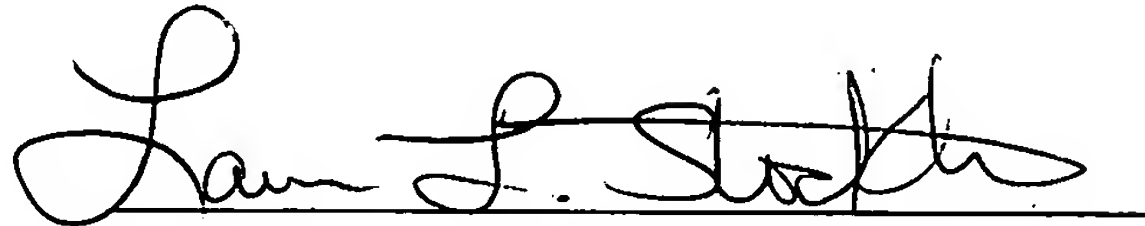
Claims 8, 9, 12 and 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (571) 272-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:15 am to 2:45 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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The Official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura L. Stockton", written over a horizontal line.

Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1626, Group 1620

Technology Center 1600

March 2, 2005